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mates are quick, often more ruthless than the instructor, in detecting a weakness. But if properly directed, they are quick to discern the fine points.

I believe that oral themes furnish excellent training for clear, forcible thinking, and expression shorn of non-essentials.

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ORAL COMPOSITION

Oral composition and class-correction are good means of improving written composition, but the time will never come when careful correction of papers is unnecessary. However, effective and economical methods will do a great deal to reduce the number of errors and so make the correction of compositions easier. By drawing up a list of cautions based on the errors actually made by preceding speakers and discussing these as a forewarning before the first composition is assigned, the common errors may be reduced to a minimum. By keeping his essays on file during the semester, and through the whole period of his attendance at school, a pupil comes to realize the importance of each exercise and to do his best work on it. A means to help him correct his individual mistakes is to make the necessary corrections in his essays and require him to explain in his next exercise why the corrections were necessary, writing rules, definitions, or discussions. The gain is great enough to warrant the labor.

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VITALIZING LITERATURE STUDY

I heartily approve of the attitude taken in a large part of the discussion today, that our chief thought should be about how to teach correct and effective speaking and writing. All that I have had in mind on that subject, however, has been admirably said by other speakers. As a kind of supplement to our discussion, I may perhaps be permitted to offer two specific suggestions for vitalizing the work in literature.

It is a well-known fact that no description in words, however perfect it may be from a literary standpoint, will convey to the mind of the reader any definite image, unless he has previously had some sense-impression which may serve as a means of interpretation. In spite of this fact, too many of us continue to ask our pupils to read literature